

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5 and 8-11 are pending. By this Response, claim 1 is amended. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Kawabe, et al. (US 6,034,710) and Kamimura (US 6,266,077). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's arguments with respect to Kawabe in previous Replies are hereby incorporated by reference. The Office Action alleges that Kawabe teaches each of the claimed features except for the claimed exposure level correction section. The Office Action alleges that Kamimura teaches this feature absent in Kawabe and is combinable with Kawabe's teachings. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Kamimura teaches an LED array printing element which is used in optical printing. Kamimura's teachings provide a method for compensating for variations in the optical power of each LED. A memory stores the optical power values measured from an optical sensor. A target value is then obtained for each LED. Compensation data is then determined from the difference between the optical output and target value of each LED. See column 4, lines 6-37.

In Kamimura, it is the optical power that is measured and compensated for. All calculations are based on the optical power values. This is contrary to Applicants' invention in which the exposure level correction section corrects the

exposure level data which has been supplied from an exposure level conversion section. The exposure level data supplied from the exposure level conversion section is predetermined. The predetermined exposure level data is then corrected by the exposure level correction section for each element of a print head based on predetermined data that includes positional information of each element of the print head in relation to the printing medium. Kamimura does not teach or suggest this feature of Applicants' claims.

Thus, Kamimura fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, an exposure level correction section that corrects the exposure level data output from said exposure level conversion section using a correction factor for each element of said print head, the correction factor being based upon predetermined data stored in a correction table, including position information of each of said exposure element of said print head as it relates to said photosensitive printing medium, that correlates the exposure level for each element of said print head with an optimal exposure level, and outputting corrected exposure level data, as recited in claim 1.

Thus, in view of the above, the combination of Kawabe and Kamimura fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of the claims as required. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion


For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 5 and 8-11 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings, Reg. No. 48,917 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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